

# ***FALCON FAMILY NEWS***

May 2015



Get the latest happenings on USAFA Facebook



Watch the newest videos on your Academy Youtube channel



Follow us on Twitter for random USAFA news and facts



iTunes



Android

Do you have an iTunes or Android enabled device? Scan the QR codes above with your barcode scanner to download the new Air Force Academy App. Get the latest Academy news, photos, videos, and more.

You can also access free photos on USAFA WEBSITE:

<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm> Just select your cadet's class year!

**USAFA'S PUBLIC CALENDER Link: (Managed by the Association of Graduates.)**

<http://www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events>

**Parent Information link:**

<http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/cma/parentsclub.cfm?catname=Class%20of%202014>

## **CLASS STATISTICS (as of 30 April 15)**

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2015	673	188	861
2016	649	187	836
2017	808	246	1054
2018	862	237	1099
<b>WING</b>	<b>2992</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>3850</b>

❖ These numbers include international students.

## **UPCOMING DATES 2015/2016:**

18 May 15	Prep School Parade
18 – 21 May 15	First Class Household Goods, Baggage Processing and Shipment
19 May 15	Prep School Graduation
22 May 15	2016 Ring Dance Dinner (Mitchell Hall 1730 – 2000)
22 May 15	2016 Ring Dance (Arnold Hall 2000 – 2100)
28 May 15	2015 Graduation
30 May 15	1 <sup>st</sup> Summer Session Begins
20 Jun 15	1 <sup>st</sup> Summer Session Ends
20 Jun 15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Summer Session Begins
25 Jun 15	Class of 2019 In-Processes
26 Jun 15	Class of 2019 Swearing In Ceremony (0830) at Chapel Wall
10 Jun 15	Field Day (viewing only...no cadet access)
11 Jul 15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Summer Session Ends
11 Jul 15	Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo (0730 No parent access)
11 Jul 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer Session Begins
12 Jul 15	<u>Prep School</u> – Prior Service report (in-processing)
18 Jul 15	Doolie Day Out (Sponsors pick up approx. 0800-1900) (Cadets can have cell phones today)
15 Jul 15	<u>Prep School</u> - Direct Entry report (in-processing)
20 Jul 15	March out to Jacks Valley (0800)
30 Jul 15	March back from Jacks Valley (0730)
1 Aug 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer Session Ends
1 Aug 15	Cadet Wing Returns by 7:00pm
3 Aug 15	Laptops Issued
4 Aug 15	Freshman E-mail should be up on e-mail
4 Aug 15	Acceptance Parade (0900 tentative)
5 Aug 15	2017 Class Commitment Dinner (time TDB)
6 Aug 15	New Semester Classes Start
18 Aug 15	USAFA/FMF will accept Scholarship Checks
4-7 Sep 15	Parents' Weekend 2015
<a href="http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/?catname=Parents%27%20Weekend">http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/?catname=Parents%27%20Weekend</a>	
24 – 29 Nov 15	Cadet Thanksgiving Break (after LMD)
19 Dec 15 – 5 Jan 16	Cadet Winter Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 5 Jan 16)
18 – 27 Mar 16	Cadet Wing Spring Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 27 Mar 16)

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**In-processing Day:** As far as in-processing day there will not be anything for parents to do before you drop off your cadet. You will show up at the specified time for your cadet (not earlier), get a quick brief and then your cadet will be separated from family and friends and begin official in-processing. There is a small parents' information fair right where you will drop your cadet off and can see your cadet come down the stairs and walk to the bus. After that you can check out the cadet chapel, visitor's center, or other available Academy sites – such as the Heritage Trail at Doolittle Hall.

**Swearing In Ceremony** On Friday (26 Jun- 0830) there is the Class of 2019 swearing in ceremony where you can watch the class swear-in. Just stand along the chapel wall overlooking the terrazzo. They will be below

you. Some people make signs of encouragement (only) etc... for their cadet. Advise you arrive early to get a good spot along the wall and for parking, but no earlier than 0730.

**Bus time arrival from hotels and In-Process times:** Appointees who are riding a bus from a hotel will in-process when they arrive (if arriving after their in-processing time) or wait until their flight in-processing time. If dropping off your cadet please do so at the appointment time so they can in-process as a squadron. This helps begin squadron camaraderie and team building for the squadrons.

**BCT Turnbacks In-processing:** Cadets who were administratively turned back and are returning won't have access online to find out their Squadron until they in-process. Turnback cadets can in-process at any time on in-processing day. Cadet Personnel works squadron information and may not be able get that information to the cadet before in-processing. If cadets have questions they must contact Cadet Personnel at (719) 333-1043.

**Communicating with Your Cadet During Basic Cadet Training (BCT):** BCT consists of two parts – 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, which is conducted in the Cadet Area, and 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, conducted in Jacks Valley. Mail is the only way to communicate during this time. Mail those letters and cards often. Cadets won't be allowed phone calls and the letters from family and friends mean so much to them. Suggest you put your cadet's BCT squadron letter after their name to help get the mail to the cadet faster. Encourage them to hang in there. It gets better, and once the Fall semester starts they will have e-mail and can have their cell phones fulltime (if earned in some squadrons). Cadets will also have time to write letters as well, and are encouraged to do so by their trainers. If your cadet decides to quit they will be allowed to call home so you can talk to them and maybe give them encouragement to stay.

**Jacks Valley:** This is the location of the second part of BCT. The cadets are sent on "Deployment" to a tent city where they learn combat skills, train on the obstacle course, confidence course, and assault course, and participate in team building exercises. This is a rewarding, but difficult part of BCT. Encourage your cadet to get as physically fit as they can to prepare for BCT. Drink lots of water before coming to Colorado Springs as the high altitude is very hard on people who aren't used to it. Water will help keep the cadet hydrated and hopefully keep the headaches down due to altitude sickness.

**Parent Clubs:** Are you a member of a parent club yet? If you wish to be I would be happy to give you the nearest parent club. Just send contact information. Parent Clubs are a wealth of information. They have been where you are and can help you adjust. Parent Clubs are also how the USAFA Parent Club Liaison gets the word out of changes or news fast to USAFA Parents. They are also there if your family is in need. They really are a vital part of our USAFA family.

**Privacy Act Release for Parent Clubs:** On the Admissions portal there will be a privacy act release for parent clubs and the 2019 Spirit Committee. Please fill these out for me. Even if you have already given your information to the local parent club, please fill out and sign the form as it allows me to release Privacy Act information to the local parent club. I will use this for the whole four years (five if a prep school cadet candidate) that your cadet is here at the Academy. The parent clubs send goodie bags during finals, or care packages, graduation gifts etc... There is also a year-group POC that does coins etc...for the whole class. For example, I have POCs for each year group, 2016, 2017, & 2018. There will be one for 2019 as well. You can also find the PA release online on my parent webpage:  
<http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/cma/parentslinks.cfm>. (privacy act requirements).

**Privacy Act Release of cadet information to Parents:** Unless your cadet gives the USAF Academy specific permission to release Privacy Act information (to include Academic or Medical information) we will only be able to discuss the procedures. Your cadet is an adult and active duty member. Your first action should be to ask them. As the adult and active duty member the cadets can give permission to release Academic information and not medical or vice versa, to release both, or to restrict the release of information. They will do this as part

of in-processing, but can update later in the cadet database if needed. You can contact their Commander (AOC), but start with your cadet.

**Family Emergencies:** Feel free to contact your cadet's AOC (Commander) or AMT (enlisted superintendent) in case of family emergencies. You can also contact me Toll Free at 1-877-268-3383, (719) 333-3828, if you need their phone numbers or need me to contact them for you. The commanders really do try and work out emergencies as quickly as possible.

**Parent Newsletters:** You can go to the Parent webpage site to have access to the monthly Parent Newsletters: <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/cma/newsletters.cfm>. I also send out monthly to the parent clubs and they will forward to you.

**Sponsor Family:** You can get a sponsor family for your cadet by e-mailing: [Cadet.Sponsor@usafa.edu](mailto:Cadet.Sponsor@usafa.edu). This is a really good program. It is a home away from home where your cadet can get away from the campus and chill. Many sponsor families keep their cadets for their whole four years and become lifelong friends. Many are active duty or retired military and they can help your cadet settle in and answer questions they may have. This is great for cadets with no military background. The families volunteer to help your cadet and all the costs incurred are paid for by the sponsor families.

**Doolie Day Out (DDO):** On DDO the cadets get to meet their sponsor families. The sponsor families pick the cadets up around 0930 or so and take them back to their house for the afternoon. This is the day your cadet will be able to call you during BCT. Only registered sponsor families with assignment letters will be permitted to enter the pick-up area. They must have their assignment letter and dash pass. If for some reason someone makes it all the way in without these documents, the cadet will be reported and there will be serious consequences for the cadet upon return. The cadets will be briefed about being released only to the family they are assigned to for the day. Your cadet will be able to talk with you on this day. If you are local you must become your cadet's sponsor to be allowed to pick them up today.

Parents from out-of-state should **NOT** come to town in hopes of spending Doolie Day Out with their son/daughter on this day. Doolie Day Out is for sponsor families to get to know their sponsored cadets. The appropriate time for parents to come is on Parents' Weekend (always Labor Day Weekend). They may then meet their son/daughter's sponsor families then if they so desire.

**Sponsor Families access to USAFA:** Sponsor Families have access to the base during visiting hours unless they have a DoD issued Identification (ID). Sponsor families who do not already have an approved government approved ID can get issued a DBIDs card to be able to pick up their cadet at any time required (using South gate after Northgate is closed) by working with the Cadet sponsor POC. Cadet Sponsor program's e-mail is [cadet.sponsor@usafa.edu](mailto:cadet.sponsor@usafa.edu) , (719) 333-2727.

**Acceptance Day Parade:** If you are close you can spend 1 or 2 hours or so with your cadet after the parade (date and time to be Determined). This is a parade officially accepting the Freshman (C4Cs) into the cadet wing. You must stay on campus and suggest you bring a picnic lunch or you will spend all your time in line at Subway, WingZone, or Godfather's Pizza in Arnold Hall. Appointees will not be allowed cell phones so plan on meeting up on the parade field after the parade. Shoulder boards have to be put on by the Cadets, but parents are allowed on the field to observe. To help you find your cadet, the squadrons are organized from your left to your right. Cadets squadrons 1-10 followed by squadrons 11-20. To the right of the center are Cadet squadron(s) 21-39, followed by 31-40.

**Recognition for 4 Degrees:** Recognition happens mid-March of the Freshman year and is a another milestone for Freshman. Its lasts for three days and it is similar to Basic Training. There is marching, physical fitness etc...with upper classman. The most important thing is after Recognition Freshman will be allowed to wear

civilian clothes. Yea!!!! The only involvement for parents should be if they are contacted by an upper classman in the squadron so parents can help with a surprise for their cadet after Recognition concludes. If parents aren't contacted, feel free to contact me and I can get you the phone number of the squadron CQ desk to get with an upper classman who is running Recognition for their squadron.

**Parents' Weekend Website:**

<http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/?catname=Parents%27%20Weekend>. This has lots of information for your planning purposes. Also, make your hotel reservations now. Many parents make the reservations a year out for Parents weekend (always Labor Day Weekend) and Graduation. 4 Degrees must wear their uniforms during your visit. Note: Cadets must sit with the other cadets during the football game on Saturday. After that they will be released to you for the weekend and must return on Monday. See schedule of events for times on the website and more information. You can also register for Parents Weekend. This will allow information and updates to be sent directly to your e-mail. I will send out information when the webpage is updated and registration is open. This is voluntary, but encouraged, as it also allows USAFA to gauge how many people will be coming for the weekend.

**Printers or supplies:** Many parents bring supplies etc...during Parents' weekend. Please note that many squadrons view printers as a privilege and must be earned. So you may bring it, but the cadet may have to earn the right to put it in their room. They will get issued a laptop. As soon as I get the specific laptop information I will send out and put it in the parent newsletter. Advise the Appointee to verify with their Air Officer Commanding (AOC) or Academy Military Trainer (AMT) for approval prior to sending. Every Squadron has a network printer for cadet use.

**Combat Boots:** Combat boots must have the following characteristics or they will not be allowed to be worn: Sage Green color, Round Toe, Water Resistant, Rubber Sole, No Steel Toe. The boots normally cost \$150+ if you buy on your own, but costs only \$97 from USAFA. The boots issued are very easy to break in. The recommendation is for the cadet to get them here. If they don't meet the standards or are not uniform with the other cadets they will not be allowed to wear them.

**Bigger size feet (Tennis Shoes):** Cadet Issue may not have an appointee's tennis shoe size (if they have bigger size feet) immediately on hand. It would be a good idea for the appointee to wear them to in-processing so that they don't need to pack them in their back pack.

**Prep School Cadet Uniforms:** Preppies who are accepted into the Academy can bring their ABUs, boots, and leather shoes but they will also be issued all new uniforms and items. With the exception of the ABUs, cadet uniforms are completely different from those issued at the Prep School.

**Scholarships:** Date USAFA can start to receive them is (TBD). The checks would still be made payable to US Treasury and memo the student's full name and social security number. Mail checks to: HQ USAFA/FMF, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2200, USAF Academy CO 80840-5035. Cadet Pay's phone number is (719) 333-6994 if you have specific questions.

**Cash for In-Processing (cadets):** I checked with our finance folks and was informed that appointees can bring a credit card if necessary. The cadets are buying their cleaning supplies and school supplies from the AAFES Cadet store and a credit card is taken there. Uniforms and equipment come through payroll. Having some cash is also recommended.

**Cadet Health Insurance:** Please review the below link. The link will provide you with the phone number and information on how you can receive proof of medical coverage. I would suggest calling the Beneficiary Line highlighted below for urgent requests. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.



<http://www.tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/DEERS/milConnect/Proof.aspx>

## REQUESTS FOR PROOF OF INSURANCE CERTIFICATES

Requests for certificates may be made in writing, via fax, or by phone.

Written (mailed or faxed) requests for a certificate must include:

- Sponsor's name and Social Security number or Department of Defense Benefits Number
- Name of person for whom the certificate is requested
- Reason for the request
- Name and address to whom and where the certificate should be sent
- Signature of the requester

Mail written requests to:

Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO)

Attn: Certificate of Creditable Coverage

400 Gigling Road Seaside, CA 93955-6771

Fax requests to 1-831-655-8317.

Call the DSO Beneficiary Line directly at 1-800-538-9552 to request or check the status of your certificate. The DSO will review each request. Certificates can take up to three weeks to process. However, if your request is urgent, you can request that processing be expedited and your certificate can be faxed directly to a particular number.

On base POC is Glenda Phillips [Glenda.phillips@us.af.mil](mailto:Glenda.phillips@us.af.mil). phone (719) 333-5281 (USAFA TRICARE for cadets)

**Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI):**  Your cadet will be signed up for the SGLI automatically for \$400,000. If your cadet wishes to lower the coverage then they will need to stop by Cadet Personnel in Vandenberg hall. Cadet Personnel Office is located at 2360 Vandenberg Dr., Suite 3C24 (above the "C" store). Please see the below website we use to assist with myths and rumors about SGLI - to include how SGLI works.

SGLI Web Site:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/sgli.asp>

## **POST OFFICE BOX, FEDERAL EXPRESS, UPS, and DHL INFORMATION**

From the USAFA Postmaster:

The correct mailing address for your cadet is crucial. Mail not deliverable due to the incorrect address or insufficient information will be returned to the sender or sent to the Dead Letter Office (if there is no return address).

In addition to regular mail (envelopes) you may also send packages to the post office box and the cadets will receive a note in the boxes instructing them to pick up their packages at the counter. The address must be complete and correct. Appointees were given their P.O. Box number online with their appointment package (Note that the zip code for cadets is 80841 rather than 80840.) The correct address for all cadets is below:

John Doe  
PO Box xxxx (post office box number)  
USAFA CO 80841-xxxx (post office box number)

(If you wish, you can also put the cadet rank (C4C, C3C, etc... before the name or as a basic cadet it should be "Basic Cadet John Doe"))

**FEDEX, DHL, & UPS ADDRESS: The Post office will accept packages from companies that don't send to P.O. Boxes and delivery services (FEDEX, DHL, UPS etc...)**

You must use the post office's street address for this packages. Use the street address of your post office and benefit from the credibility of a street address. If you sign up for this feature, we will accept delivery by private carriers (FEDEX, UPS, DHL) that do not deliver to a P.O. Box. These packages would be placed in a secure parcel locker, if available, for your convince. Both street addressed mail and P.O. Box addressed mail can now be delivered to your P.O. Box.

## **Cadets**

John Doe

2630 Vandenberg # (your P.O. Box number)

USAF Academy, CO 80840 (**note different zip code than regular cadet mail**)

## **Prep School**

Street Addressing - Use the street address of:

5136 Community Center Dr. # (your P.O. Box number)

USAF Academy, CO 80840

Real Mail Notification Services - Receive an email or text message each day you receive new mail in your P.O. Box, Monday through Saturday. You will receive this notification only if you have mail.

Signature on File. – If your cadet provides the post office with their signature, they will keep it on file. This allows the post office to accept some signature-required mail and packages for you, which you can access at your convenience. Enjoy the conveniences of this service for products such as Express Mail.

**Cadet Contact:** Don't be surprised when you can't talk with your cadet much or they don't get back to you quickly. They will have very limited time due to classes, studying, and military duties. They have to learn to juggle and prioritize many things, so be patient with them.

**Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo :** The Basic Cadets take time out of their busy summer schedule to attend the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo in Colorado Springs (11 Jul). This year it is the 75<sup>rd</sup> annual rodeo. The afternoon gives your cadet a chance to relax and enjoy one of the area's oldest western heritage traditions. The cadets will **NOT** be allowed to interact with family or friends at the rodeo.

**SILVER/BLUE Weekends:** Silver Training Weekends means there is official military training on the weekend. Blue Training weekends means cadets should have free time with no official training. These weekends may change based on the cadet wing requirements/needs. Always check with your cadet for the latest.

## **Honors List Criteria:**

**Athletic Director's List:** Cadets who earn a semester Physical Education Average (PEA) of at least 3.0 will be on the Athletic Director's list. These cadets are authorized to wear the Athletic Director's pin

on their uniform for the next semester. PEA is a weighted 4.00 grading scale (50% Physical Fitness Test + 35% Phy Ed course grades + 15% Aerobic Fitness Test).

**Dean's List:** The cadet has to earn a 3.0 GPA, minus grades from physical education courses.

**Commandant's List:** The top 1/3 of each class year are eligible for this honor. Stipulation, if a cadet is on "ANY" probation, he/she is not eligible for the honor.

**SUPTS List:** Cadets must be on the Dean's/Commandant's/AD lists combined

**Honor Code Handbook:** The handbook is available on the USAFA Website/Commandant/Honors Directorate. The current edition is located at the following link:

[http://www.usafa.edu/Commandant/cwc/cwch/Handbook\\_2014.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/Commandant/cwc/cwch/Handbook_2014.pdf)

**Hometown News Release:** Your cadet (not parents...the cadets are the active duty member) can go to the following link and put in a Hometown News Release for their achievements here at USAFA. The cadet has to release their Privacy Act Information for the article to be used. Please note that you must have a CAC identification card (active duty ID) to use this program. Parents can no longer update for their cadet.

<https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public>

**Approved Academic Calendar:** 2015 is posted online at the link below.

The link for the calendar is: <http://www.usafa.af.mil/academics/calendar.asp>.

Note: I am still waiting for the Prep School Academic Calendar information.

**Care Packages during BCT:** Do not send care packages during BCT. Cadets may receive them after the Acceptance Parade. If you send care packages before then, it will be held until then so send only nonperishables.

**Ways to send your love to your Cadet:** There are several ways to send gifts to your cadet.

**CADET TREATS:** Petal and Bloom, <http://petalsnblooms.com/index.php>, 719-472-8589 the base flower shop took over for the 10 FSS Cadet Treats in 2014. They not only do flowers but goodies as well. Check out their website: [petalsbloom.com](http://petalsbloom.com).

**NOTE:** **LOCAL** deliveries can be sent to **ARNOLD HALL** for your cadet to pick up. Sorry it can't be a surprise. (online orders sent by FEDEX etc... must still go to the Cadet Post Office) The address is 10 FSS/FSL, 2302 Cadet Dr., USAFA, CO 80840. Please ensure your cadet's name and Squadron are on the delivery receipt so Arnold Hall staff can contact your cadet for pickup.

### **GIFT CARDS:**

**AAFES (Exchange or cadet store):** These cards can be used at the Cadet Store, Arnold Hall (Subway, Godfather's Pizza & Wing Zone), & the Base Exchange store as well. Parents can call (719) 472-1953 (Bonnie) and order an Exchange gift card for their cadets. The Exchange will either mail to the parent, parents can tell the cadet to come pick up the gift card, or lastly they will e-mail the cadet and have them come and get the gift card. Don't worry if you don't know your appointee's squadron and such, the cadet store can find that out through the Basic training folks.



**10 Force Support Squadron (10 FSS) Gift Cards:** These cards can be used at the Arnold Hall coffee shop, HAPS, and all 10 FSS activities (Outdoor Recreation, Bowling Alley, Golf Course, Horseback riding, Arts & Crafts center etc...) Parents can call (719) 472-7930 and order a gift card for their cadets. They will either mail to the parents or parents can tell the cadet to come pick up the gift card at the coffee shop in Arnold Hall.

**Emergency Contact Form POC:** Please contact the Cadet Personnel office at 719-333-3244,

**Thanksgiving/Winter Break/Spring Break Procedures (normally):**

**Thanksgiving Break:** The official release is for the cadets for Thanksgiving is 24 – 29 Nov 15. The cadets/cadet candidates will normally be able to leave after the last military duty (LMD). Cadets must be touched down in Denver at least 3 hours prior to check-in time at 7pm. No set time for Colorado Springs, but at least an hour is suggested.

**Winter Break:**

Cadets: The official release 19 Dec 15 – 5 Jan 16 for Cadets. The cadets/cadet candidates will normally be able to leave anytime on 19 Dec 15. That being said, you need to check with your cadet. If they take their last final on say Wednesday, then they can leave after their final with Commander's permission (standard release is given). Your cadet can go into the computer system here (CAMIS) and look up each of his or her classes (hopefully sometime in September) and see when their finals are. Cadets will not be allowed to move up finals for airline tickets. Also the return date is 5 Jan 16 by 7pm. Cadets must be land in Denver at least 3 hours prior to check-in time at 7pm. No set time for Colorado Springs, but at least an hour is suggested.

**Spring Break:** Spring break for Cadets is 18 – 27 Mar 16. The cadets will normally be able to leave after the last military duty (LMD). Cadets must land in Denver at least 3 hours prior to check-in time at 7pm. No set time for Colorado Springs, but at least an hour is suggested.

Cadet Candidates have similar procedures and as I get those I will send out.

**Shuttle Rides to Airports:** For the main breaks from the Academy (Thanksgiving, Winter, & Spring Break) the 10<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron (10 FSS) Outdoor Recreation Office (719) 333-4602, has shuttle buses (for a cost) that will take the cadets and cadet candidates (Prep School) to Colorado Springs and Denver Airports (schedule is normally out some time in September and I will send out as soon as I get them). **NOTE: For summer break** there are no shuttle rides provided by 10 FSS. Cadets are on their own to get to airports. Please don't wait to purchase shuttle bus tickets once Cadet Outdoor Recreation is accepting reservations.

**Shuttle information from DIA to Colorado Springs.** These shuttles don't normally come directly to USAFA, but to a hotel in Colorado Springs. **No endorsement of the following shuttles is being given by USAFA.** It is for information only to get you started. Check the internet for more options.

1. Front Range Shuttle (direct to airports): <http://www.fronrangeshuttle.com/>, (719) 237-2646.
2. Colorado Springs shuttle: <https://www.coloradoshuttle.com/prices-schedules>, 1-877-587-3456, (719) 687-3456, Reservations: [reservations@coloradoshuttle.com](mailto:reservations@coloradoshuttle.com)
3. A Ride in Luxury: <http://arideinluxury.com/colorado-airport-transportation/>, 1-800-813-9916, (719) 243-3365
4. A & B Limo Towncar: <http://www.cartotheairportdenver.com/colorado-springs-to-dia/>, (303) 578-4802.

**TAXI information for USAFA access before or after Visiting Hours:** For your information the following taxis have already been approved access to the installation before or after duty hours. So your cadet can call them to get to airport or local hotel to catch a shuttle to Denver airport during non-visiting hours.

1. Yellow Cab, (719) 777-7777, <http://www.yccos.com/community.html> has approval access to the base. Other cab companies would have to have a driver that already has a military Identification (retired military) to gain access the installation after visiting hours (0900- 1700 hours every day)
2. Springs Cab, (719) 444-8686

**Cadet Taxes:** Most cadets don't have many deductions and file an EZ form. USAFA has volunteers that can do their taxes for free to ensure they have used all the deductions they are entitled to and are done on an appointment basis. This information will be posted up in the cadet area. The USAFA Tax Center is located near the South Gate, at the 10th ABW/HQ Building, 8034 Edgerton Drive, Suite 237. Cadets can call for appointments at 333-3920. If your cadets (C4Cs) need proof of attendance for you to claim part of the year, the cadet needs to go online to USAFA Registrar's website and request a letter. Then the cadet can pick up the letter from the Registrar's Office (Fairchild Hall).

**High School Excusals:** If you have a high school student that needs to come out for a formal tour and will miss school, USAFA Admissions can do an excusal letter for a College visit. You can contact at 1-800-443-9266 or e-mail [rr\\_webmail@usafa.edu](mailto:rr_webmail@usafa.edu). The admissions website is: <http://www.academyadmissions.com/>.

### **Photo access for parents:**

The U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs office provides command information to the installation and the public. One of the ways we do this is through social media venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. All information provided is official, but there is also fun stuff on there too. Did you know you can download photos from our Facebook page, for free?

FB: [www.facebook.com/USAFA.Official](http://www.facebook.com/USAFA.Official)

Twitter: @AF\_Academy

Instagram: AF\_Academy

We also want your Academy photos. Upload them to Instagram using #YourAcademy. You might see it on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any questions, please call the Public Affairs office at 719-333-7731.

There are also more **FREE** pictures on the USAFA webpage. You can gain access from our website, <http://www.usafa.af.edu/> and go to the Military tab, cadet photos and select class year.

<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm>

The Association of Graduates (AOG) also provides pictures for a cost. You can sign up with their Webguy using this link: <http://www.usafawebguy.com/>.

**Association of Graduates (AOG):** The AOG is the alumni association for the Air Force Academy. The AOG has a website worthy of periodic perusal for information about the Academy and the graduate community: <http://www.usafa.org/>. Parents can become members of the AOG while your cadet is a cadet. The AOG also has a "WEBGUY" who takes pictures of the cadets during and after Basic Training, and for a fee you can access these photos. Each member, whether a graduate, parent, or friend of the Academy, helps maintain and

expand current programs as well as develop new ones. Call Don McCarthy, (719) 472-0300, ext. 139 or email at [Don.McCarthy@aogusafa.org](mailto:Don.McCarthy@aogusafa.org), if you have any questions. This is voluntary option.

1. Freshman parents can become members by going to the below link as a Club Member. Please note there is a monthly charge to become a member and WEBGUY is not part of USAFA Cadet Media and USAFA Public Affairs office (which is at no cost and can be accessed by internet also), but the AOG does take lots of pictures. Check out the site. WEBGUY is separate than my office as Parent Liaison –no charge. (Sometimes new parents think they have already signed up for a parent club during in-processing fair when they get to my table.)

<http://www.usafawebguy.com/aog-usafa-class-club>

2. Other class year parents can obtain regular memberships by signing up at the following website.

<http://www.usafa.org/Membership>

### **USAFA Endowment Fund Information**

Each fall, parents receive a call from the USAFA Endowment and are asked to become Sabre Society level donors to the Air Force Academy Fund. Over the last three years, parents have contributed more than \$2.5 million to the Air Force Academy Fund.

The USAFA Endowment's Air Force Academy Fund is an annual, unrestricted fund that enables the Endowment and the Association of Graduates to fulfill their missions in support of the Academy. The primary purpose of the Air Force Academy Fund is to provide private, unrestricted funds in support of a variety of cadet and graduate programs, capital projects and key Academy priorities as identified by the Superintendent. Throughout the year, a variety of methods are used to raise these funds. If you have questions about these calls or experience any problems, please feel free to contact the USAFA Endowment at (719) 472-0300. Thank you for all you do for the Academy

**Cadet Media:** Cadet Media also takes lots of pictures and you can access them online at no costs. You will also order yearbooks class photos etc...through them. Cadet Media's website is:

<http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media>

**Shipment of Household Goods:** Cadets/Graduates must contact the JPPSO office at (719) 333-3007.

Below is the weight allowed per category:

350 lbs - International students/Cadets

10,000 lbs - Unmarried 2nd Lt

12,000 lbs - Married 2nd Lt (spouse on orders)

### **Medical Coverage for USAFA Cadets: (as of May 2015)**

Each year there are lots of questions regarding medical coverage. The main question being: should I maintain my cadet on my family health insurance plan once they are at the USAFA? The other being, what happens when a cadet gets sick away from the AFA while traveling or is home on break?

### **Medical Care for United States Air Force Academy Cadets –**

Welcome to the United States Air Force Academy Military Medical Treatment Facility-10th Medical Group. We are dedicated to providing your son/daughter with exceptional service and access to consistently high quality health care. I encourage you and your cadet, once they are settled in, to visit our cadet clinic.

While assigned to the USAFA as an active student they are entitled by law (Authority is 10.U.S.C. 1074, 6201-6203; 31 U.S.C. 1535) to the following military medical care:

- 1) Direct outpatient Care
- 2) Aeromedical Evacuation
- 3) Dental Care
- 4) Emergency Care
- 5) Immunizations
- 6) Prosthetic Devices (includes hearing aids)

**Cadets must have approval/authorization to receive care in the civilian community and Urgent Care Clinics. Routine care is not covered.** The care and treatment of injuries/diseases that existed prior to departure on leave are not considered emergencies. Whenever cadets require routine medical care, they can use the nearest US. Military Medical Treatment Facility available (Army, Navy, or Air Force). For assistance in finding a military hospital near your home, call 1-877-988-9378 or visit website: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>.

Cadets requiring Emergent/Urgent care in the civilian community, have to utilize the local Emergency Room or contact the Cadet Clinic (719-333-5180). Current cadet clinic hours are from 0700-1900 Monday through Friday and 1200-1700 on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. An On-Call provider is always available through the automated system (524-2273 or 526-2273) for after hours and weekend authorizations. After hours you will be directed to our answering service and they will contact the provider on-call. If it's after hours or you are unsure if you need to see a doctor, you can call the TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line by calling 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and choose Option 1, 24 hours per day seven days per week. Failure to receive authorization could result in a Point of Service charge where the Cadet/Cadet Candidate is responsible for the bill. If this occurs the cadet/cadet candidate could submit the claim through their parents' medical insurance if they are still a covered beneficiary.

For emergency situations (risk of loss of limb, limb, or eyesight) cadets should go to the nearest emergency room for care (or call an ambulance if the situation supports it). As soon as the medical situation has been stabilized, the cadet should report the visit to the Cadet/Flight Medicine Clinic (719-333-5180) and Benefit Support Office (719-333-5281, for insurance purposes).

For emergency dental care in the civilian community to eliminate or prevent undue pain and suffering, cadets must call the Cadet Dental Clinic (719-333-5190) for pre-authorization. Cadets should use the nearest military medical treatment facility for non-emergent dental care.

**Medical Coverage for USAFA Cadets (cont.)**

The cadet should identify himself or herself as an active duty member and provide their name, social security number, squadron and their Air Force Academy mailing address. If a civilian provider/facility is used, direct them to mail all claims to:

TRICARE  
West Region Claims  
P.O. Box 7064  
Camden, SC 29020

Cadets must report the use of civilian care to the USAFA Cadet Clinic, Commercial (719) 333-5183, DSN 333-5183. They must also contact our Benefit Support Office (719-333-5281) for benefit questions and insurance claim issues. If you receive bills from a civilian hospital, bring them immediately to the TRICARE Service Center, located in the main lobby of the 10th Medical Group. If you paid for medication or hospital bills, keep all receipts and any other documentation that shows proof of payment.

A Cadet Clinic provider must see Cadets the next duty day from their return to the USAF Academy if medical treatment was received while away from the Academy.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to maintain health insurance coverage for your son/daughter in the event that they are disenrolled from the USAF Academy or develop catastrophic illnesses (e.g. liver transplant, potential heart transplant...). An average 40 cadets/yr are medically disqualified and the Air Force has no financial obligation once disenrolled (medically or otherwise). Your son/daughter may qualify for Veterans Administration (VA) outpatient/inpatient care which they will determine.

If you need additional information about your cadet's medical coverage, please contact the Benefit Support Office at (719) 333-5281.

We look forward to caring for your son/daughter at the 10th Medical Group.

WALTER M. MATTHEWS, Col, USAF, MC, CFS  
Commander, 10th Medical Group

#### **PERSONAL CHECKING AND SHARE DRAFT ACCOUNTS:**

You must initially open a checking account (free with your direct deposit) at Armed Forces Bank on USAFA. The signature card will be found online on your application portal. Complete and sign the signature card and mail it, along with a copy of your photo ID to: Armed Forces Bank, P.O. Box 10, USAF Academy 80840, Attn: Cadet Bank. Armed Forces Bank is the only bank located in the Cadet area (Sijan Hall) and is fully staffed for Cadets. ATMs are also located in both Vandenberg and Sijan Hall dormitors. For additional banking information or questions contact Armed Forces Bank: phone (719) 208-8780, (719) 208-9870 or e-mail: [usafacadetbank@dfckc.com](mailto:usafacadetbank@dfckc.com).

You may change your direct deposit to a bank of your choice after your pay account is established using the cadet payroll on-line capabilities.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP AND OR EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT FUNDS:**

Scholarships: Agencies should issue scholarship proceeds directly to the Cadet. When a scholarship agency is unable to make payment directly to the cadet, the scholarship may be accepted for credit to the Cadet's pay account provided there are no restrictions on the scholarship and the check is payable to the US Treasury. Restrictions are any condition or limitation an agency places on the use of their scholarship funds. Restrictions examples: "must be used for tuition, room and/or board," "student is required to maintain a specific GPA," "scholarship funds will be paid back if Cadet Candidate disenrolls," etc. Scholarships silent on restrictions will be treated as non-restrictive and accepted. Once a scholarship is accepted is it never refunded to the agency granting the scholarship, even if the cadet or cadet candidate disenrolls. Be sure to memo the cadet's full name and social security number on the check.

Please have the check made payable to: "US TREASURY" and then mail the check to:

HQ USAFA/FMF  
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2200  
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5035  
No checks will be accepted after 18 Aug 2015"

#### **PREP SCHOOL FINANCIAL READINESS**



There are several fees/expenses required to be paid by ALL Prep School students upon arrival at USAFA:

Textbooks: Exact Amount TBD - will be updated NLT 1 July. Approximate amount will be \$1400. Must be paid with check upon arrival at In-Processing.

Supplies: Exact Amount TBD - will be updated NLT 1 July. Approximate amount will be \$500. Must be paid with check upon arrival at In-Processing. This fee covers items such as required undergarments, name tapes for uniforms, and required school supplies.

Football Tickets must be purchased directly from the Air Force Athletic Department. Please go to [Go Air Force Falcons](#). Parents and Cadet-Candidates can order season and single Parent's Weekend Game tickets.

Click Tickets at the top

Click Promo Codes from the choices

Enter: PREP

For those incoming students with financial issues, the Preparatory School will provide alternatives on a case-by-case basis.

### **CADET FINANCIAL QUESTIONS:**

**Cadet Discretionary Money:** Cadets should bring discretionary money of approximately \$275 plus any anticipated travel funds. This will allow students to purchase items needed prior to the first payday on 1 Aug 15. These will include miscellaneous items such as toiletries, cleaning supplies, ironing board, etc...

### **Cadet Basic Pay/Advance of Pay**

Cadets earn \$1,017.00 per month in basic pay. This is to cover a majority of school related expenses. Since most expenses are incurred within the first eight months (uniforms, computer, textbooks, etc.) cadets receive an advance of pay (interest free government loan) to cover these mandatory expenses. The advance is automatically collected back within two years by payroll deduction.

Cadets who separate before the advance is repaid are expected to return uniform and equipment items acceptable for resale to repay as much of the advance loan as possible. The remaining debt balance will become taxable income. The debt itself is forgiven.

### **Helpful Websites/POCs:**

**Life Touch photos:** POC: Maria Turner, Prestige Portrait by Lifetouch, 800-426-9533 x 241

**Cadet Wing Media:** (719) 333-4644

**Prep School POC:** Contact Dawn Ellis at (719) 333-2583, [dawn.ellis@usafa.edu](mailto:dawn.ellis@usafa.edu) and the USAFA website below:

<http://www.usafa.edu> Look under Prep School link at top right (7th tab)

**Academic Calendar website: (2015/2016 calendar)**

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-111208-035.pdf>

**Curriculum Handbook** (which also outlines what summer programs are available for cadets in what year):

<http://www.usafa.edu/df/data/CHB2012-2013.pdf>

**Cadet Clubs** (just a listing of clubs and POCs, not a schedule of where they may be):

<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/>

**Admissions:** (parents can help us recruit future cadets):

<http://www.academyadmissions.com/>

**Sports Schedules:**

<http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/>

**Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop)** 719-472-8589, [petalsnblooms.com](http://petalsnblooms.com)

**Gift Cards order phone numbers:** Cadet Store (Base Exchange) (472-1953); 10 FSS: (719) 472-7930

### **PREP SCHOOL INFORMATION:**

Below is the Point of Contact for questions for our Prep School Candidate parents.

Dawn Ellis, (719) 333-2583. [dawn.ellis@usafa.edu](mailto:dawn.ellis@usafa.edu)

<http://www.usafa.edu> Look under Prep School link at top right (7th tab)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

### **Marie**

ROSE MARIE NIKOVITS

Parents' Liaison

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO

(719) 333-3828 Toll Free 877-268-3383

Fax (719) 333-1433

e-mail: [rose.nikovits@usafa.edu](mailto:rose.nikovits@usafa.edu)